Special Economic Zones

443. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to exempt the Special Economic Zones to be outside the purview of the Employees' Provident Fund Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision amounts to infringement of the rights of the workers;

(d) whether Government have evolved any alternative mechanism to ensure the social security measures for the employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that in respect of Special Economic Zones, the State Government may apply for exemption, to the Central Government under Section 16(2) of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 from the applicability of the provisions of the Act to SEZ for 5 years. The decision shall be taken on a case-to-case basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

Employment growth rate

444. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employment growth rate in the organised manufacturing sector in the country showing a negative trend during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the employment generation in the organised manufacturing sector for the above said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Estimated employment in the organised manufacturing sector in the country during the period 2000-2002 is given below:—

Employment in the Organised Manufacturing Sector as on 31st March

Year	Employment (in Lakhs)	Percentage change
2000	66.2	—
2001	64.4	-1.4
2002	62.2	-3.5

Minimum wages for labourers

445. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on Minimum Wages (WGMW) has recommended a minimum wage of Rs. 66/- per day to the labourer;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the WGMW; and

(c) whether Government have prescribed rates from various quarters, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure the payment of wages at Government prescribed rates from various quarters; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure the payment of minimum wages of Rs. 66/- per day to the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The working Group on Minimum Wages, taking into account the norms in terms of 3 consumption units and per capita requirement of food, clothing, fuel, lighting and miscellaneous items including children's education, medical requirement etc. as determined by the results of quinquennial Consumer Expediture Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, recommended national minimum wages of Rs. 66/- per day.